



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

SYNOPSIS

**Wednesday, June 18, 2008
5:30 P.M.**

**City Hall
Room W-120
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113**

MELANIE RICHARDSON, CHAIR

MARY ANN RUIZ, VICE CHAIR

MIKE FLAUGHER

LESLEE HAMILTON

G.M. HARDING

JAMES KIM

JULIE MATSUSHIMA

ERIK KARSTAN SMITH

1 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

Present: Richardson, Flaughner, Hamilton, Harding, Kim, Matsushima, Ruiz, Smith

2 ORDERS OF THE DAY

Item 11.4 was moved to the last item under Informational Items

3 ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

4 CEREMONIAL ITEMS

4.1 Presentation of Commendations to Outgoing Commissioner

Assistant Director Julie Edmonds-Mares presented outgoing Commissioner Mary Ann Ruiz with a commendation in recognition of her 6 years of service.

Continued

5 CONSENT CALENDAR

- 5.1 Approval of May 7, 2008 Synopsis
- 5.2 Approval of May 21, 2008 Synopsis
- 5.3 Review of Planning Applications
- 5.4 Approval of Del Monte Park Master Plan

It was moved by Commissioner Flaughner, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton and voted 8-0 to approve the Consent Calendar.

6 COUNCIL AND COMMISSION REPORTS

- 6.1 Council Liaison
Kathy Sutherland, Policy Advisor for Council District 10, thanked Commissioner Ruiz for her service and dedication to the Commission.
- 6.2 Senior Citizens Commission
No Report
- 6.3 Youth Commission
No Report

7 PUBLIC HEARING

- 7.1 Public Hearing to Approve Proposed Adjustment to Park In-Lieu Fees (PDO/PIO)

Parks Planning Manager Dave Mitchell provided a brief overview of the history of PDO/PIO fees and a summary of the new 2007 Residential Land Value Study completed by Diaz, Diaz and Boyd, a real property valuation and consultation firm. Mr. Mitchell requested that the Commission support the recommendation to the City Council to adjust the Parkland In-Lieu Fees to reflect the 2007 Study.

Two residents, Kerri Hamilton and Harvey Darnell, spoke in support the fee adjustment as recommended and continuing the fee adjustment annually.

Commissioner Harding requested clarification on how low income affordable housing units are affected by this increase. Mr. Mitchell indicated these units are exempt from the PDO/PIO fees.

Commissioner Hamilton requested clarification on how determination was made on land values of \$35.00 per square foot in Almaden Valley compared to \$70.00 per square foot in North San Jose. Mr. Mitchell indicated the valuation is based on the number of land sales over the last year. There is more land available in North San Jose than in Almaden Valley, resulting in more sales and higher valuation for North San Jose.

Commissioner Ruiz urged the Commission to review the land value study to assure Diaz, Diaz and Boyd is providing accurate data, perhaps doing some comparison or

benchmarking. Further she suggested the recommendation for affordable housing to be exempt from PDO/PIO fees be revisited, with at least a reduced fee being required.

It was moved by Commissioner Harding, seconded by Commissioner Flaughter and voted 8-0 to approve the proposed adjustment to Park In-Lieu Fees.

8 ACTION ITEMS

- 8.1 Consider the recommendation of the Parks Maintenance Funding Subcommittee that the Parks and Recreation Commission: 1) transmit to the City Council a letter of support of the City Manager's budget proposals related to financing of parks maintenance, and 2) appoint a representative of the Commission to speak on the issue before the City Council at the June 19, 2008 Special Session to present the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation noted in the letter of support.

Parks Maintenance Funding Subcommittee member Kerri Hamilton explained the polling analysis on this proposed ballot measure indicated the measure would not pass. Therefore, recommendation will not be made to place it on the November ballot. She indicated the collaboration between the Library Commission, Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission was remarkable and for this reason requested that the Commission consider signing their letter of support for presentation at the 6/19/08 Special Session to highlight this solidarity and support for parks maintenance funding. This sentiment was also voiced by Helen Chapman, new member to the Subcommittee.

It was moved by Commissioner Ruiz, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton and voted 8-0 to authorize Chair Richardson to sign the letter of support and that the letter be presented by Kerri Hamilton at the 6/19/08 Special Session.

- 8.2 Approval of Watson Park Master Plan

Mary Beth Carter, Senior Landscape Architect, presented the Master Plan. The core amenities are the great lawn area, the walkways, two basketball courts, one soccer field and the dog park. Additional amenities were separated into "add alternates." Ms. Carter indicated there was \$3 million in funding available for the project and the bids would go out asking for the core services and as many add ons as possible within the \$3M price tag. It is anticipated the Master Plan will go to the City Council to request approval in August of this year. It is hoped to have the bid, award and start of construction by August 2009.

Clarification was requested by the Commissioners on various aspects of the project including the dog park, projections for additional funding beyond the \$3M, lighting for the soccer fields, the number of soccer fields, and replacement of the trees.

Comment was received from Harvey Darnell and Kerri Hamilton, who both voiced opinion on the deferral of collection of PDO/PIO fees from downtown high rise developers, since these fees could be used to supplement the \$3M of the Watson Park project. Matt Cano, PRNS Division Manager, responded that the City Manager and RDA

Director are acutely aware of the schedule of the Watson Park project, and these deferrals will not impact the project.

It was moved by Commissioner Flaughner, seconded by Commissioner Harding and voted 8-0 to approve the Watson Park Master Plan.

9 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Julie Edmonds-Mares, Assistant Director, reported that Animal Care Services Division will no longer be a part of PRNS but instead will be overseen by General Services, to take effect July 1, 2008.

The City Auditor has done an analysis of the Measure P Bond audit and has recommended the City Council execute a second amendment to the agreement with an outside firm to conduct a third party audit of both the Library and the Parks bonds. Recommendation is that the audits occur annually and that they occur retroactively.

Ms. Edmonds-Mares announced the re-appointment of Commissioners and appointment of new Commissioners. The Rules Committee supported Councilmember Pyle's recommendation to re-appoint members Leslee Hamilton and Julie Matsushima. As well, two new members were appointed, Paul Kramer and Winston Chu. The new commissioners will begin their term next month.

10 LIAISON REPORTS

10.1 General Plan Task Force Report

Commissioner Hamilton reported that on June 28, 2008 the Task Force will be having a city bus tour beginning at 9:00 a.m. and the general public is invited. The draft of the 2040 General Plan is anticipated in the fall. The next regular meeting for the Task Force will be Monday, June 23, 2008.

10.2 Sunshine Reform Task Force

Commissioner Ruiz reported Phase II of the Sunshine Reform has been completed. The Task Force's next meeting is 6/19/08 and it may be the last meeting of the group.

10.3 Community Sports Fields Study Committee

No report

10.4 Greenprint Subcommittee

Commissioner Flaughner indicated the Subcommittee met last week. He reserved his comments for the Greenprint presentation to follow on the evening's agenda.

10.5 Martial-Cottle Project

No report

11 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

11.1 Registration and E-Commerce System (RECS) Update

Deputy Director Jay Castellano introduced this item and gave a brief history of the two-year pilot project since its approval in December of 2007 by the City Council. Traci Tokunaga, Program Manager, provided an update of the implementation of the program thus far. It is anticipated the system will go live in December of 2008 with staff performing the computerized portion of the program. The on-line component will go live in March of 2009 with the general public able to directly access the registration system.

Commissioners requested clarification on why it would take so long for the general public to access the process. Julie Edmonds-Mares indicated there were built-in business model issues that did not align with the City's organizational values, such as advertising, and these need to be worked through with Active Network. Additionally, they will be collecting funds on the City's behalf, which is an unusual model for the City, and that process has required time to work out.

Question was also raised regarding the languages in which the program would be available. Currently the system is English only. Mr. Castellano explained the software is only available in English. Therefore, the current legacy modes of registration, such as walk-ins and fax, will be retained to accommodate non-English speakers.

11.2 Review of Fiscal Year 2009 Calendar

Julie Edmonds-Mares called the Commissioners' attention to the calendar in the packet listing the dates of Commission meetings for Fiscal Year 2009. She highlighted two special meetings, a possible retreat on August 20, 2008 and a tentative joint meeting with the Planning Commission on September 24, 2008.

11.3 Presentation of Master Plan for Turnkey Park at North San Pedro Street

Marybeth Carter, Senior Landscape Architect, introduced this item. Bruce Hill, Project Landscape Architect with Barry Swenson Builders, explained the heart of the park is a tri-park division with a central plaza area, arbor, and three play sculptures. To bridge the connection to San Pedro Square, Mr. Hill is suggesting a replicated arched entry to the park similar to that at the Square entrance. There will be open lawn on the sides of the main paseo and simple connections to the future housing.

Commissioner Harding requested clarification on the boundaries of the park and the placement of shrubs and trees. Mr. Hill explained hedges and trees separating the housing from the park was the preferred alternative to a fence. Commission Flaughter stressed the importance of assuring it is evident that this is a public park, not a private park for the surrounding homes. Clarification was requested regarding access to the park

from the north. As well, accessibility issues for the handicapped were discussed. The Master Plan for the park will be coming back to the Commission in the fall.

11.4 Greenprint Presentation and Discussion

Josh Williams with BW Research Partnership reviewed the results of the draft survey their company conducted on behalf of the City to assess the parks and recreational needs of the city's residents. Primary research objectives were threefold: 1) Evaluate residents' parks and recreation priorities, 2) Identify the use of the parks and recreational facilities, and 3) Assess the users' satisfaction with the parks and facilities.

The first question the survey addressed was the residents' perceived quality of life in San Jose. Response reflected 75% of those polled felt their quality of life in SJ neighborhoods was excellent or good. Mr. Williams indicated this was a good percentage compared to other cities his firm had surveyed. Additionally, over four times as many residents felt the quality of life in their neighborhood was getting better or staying the same.

Returning to the three objectives of the survey, Mr. Williams summarized the information indicating maintaining and operating citywide indoor recreational facilities ranked highest as residents' parks and recreation priorities. Residents identified renovating and improving school grounds for recreational activities and renovating and improving existing parks to increase use as their top priority for new parks and facilities. Over 85% of households responded they had used a park or outdoor recreational area in the last 12 months, with top ranking uses including use of playgrounds for children, walking (without a dog), running or outdoor exercise, hiking and exploring and use of open space for time with nature. Over 85% of respondents indicated they were satisfied with San Jose's parks and facilities. When asked to identify the primary outdoor recreation area used, specifically a neighborhood park or a school, 70% of respondents identified it was a park and about 21% indicated a school ground. Residents were also asked about their participation in indoor recreational activities. Approximately 40% responded they did participate in either gyms or indoor sports programs like basketball or volleyball.

Mr. Williams concluded his presentation by commenting that San Jose's ratings were noteworthy. Satisfaction of the areas that were examined was higher than the average of 80% typically noted in their surveys. The three subject areas surveyed documented 85%, 85% and 90% satisfaction rates. He indicated the 90% is particularly notable.

Commissioner Flaugher was very pleased with the report finding it quantified some things he was unsure of as well as confirming things he expected to hear. He felt the information would be very useful as the Commission develops its work plan because there will be hard numbers to apply to the focus of their work going forward.

Commissioner Smith asked if it would be possible to include questions regarding public/private partnerships and what kinds of businesses or conveniences people would like to

see in parks. Mr. Mitchell indicated they had to be very selective in the questions that were asked.

Commissioner Hamilton commented on the value of the survey, indicating the survey was a great way to capture what the broad population is thinking. She, too, felt the study would be very helpful in Commission decision making.

PRNS staff, Dave Mitchell and Rafael Gomez, continued with a presentation on the current status of the Greenprint. Issues that still need to be resolved include: 1) identifying what lands will be counted in determining the number of parkland acres, 2) whether to require 3.0 or 3.5 acres of land per 1000 population, 3) raw land versus developed land from developers, 4) whether to include recreational school grounds into parkland counts, 5) walking distance to parks and schools, 6) the number of community centers, and 7) the kind of parklands to be developed.

Mr. Mitchell indicated that the draft of the Greenprint document should be brought back to the Commission in the fall for review.

11.5 Future Agenda Items

11.6 Commissioner New Items

Commissioner Hamilton informed the Commissioners of an upcoming Bicycle Safety Forum to be held on June 28, 2008 at 1:00 at City Hall. She also reported that Ryland Pool now has water and will be open this summer.

12 CORRESPONDENCE

13 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.